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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Draft report

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

1. The Permanent Forum expresses thanks to the Government of Canada for hosting its pre-sessional meeting for 2016 and to the Governments of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, the Congo, Denmark, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States of America, as well as the Government of Greenland, for having hosted previous pre-sessional meetings and intersessional meetings of the Forum. The Forum recommends that States that have not yet done so consider hosting future such meetings. The Forum also requests the secretariat of the Forum to organize pre-sessional meetings for future sessions of the Forum.

International Year of Indigenous Languages, 2019

2. The Permanent Forum welcomes the proclamation of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, beginning in January 2019, to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels. The Forum takes note with appreciation of the commitment made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to serving as the lead agency for the Year, in collaboration with other relevant agencies.

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3. In the light of the proclamation of the International Year, the Permanent Forum invites Member States, in close cooperation with indigenous peoples, UNESCO and other relevant United Nations agencies, to participate actively in the planning of the Year, including by organizing national and international expert meetings to raise awareness of and plan specific activities for the Year and securing additional and adequate funding for the successful preparation and implementation of the Year, including by supporting the establishment of an indigenous-led fund dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages.

4. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNESCO, in cooperation with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and with the direct participation of indigenous peoples, including the Indigenous Peoples Language Caucus, develop a comprehensive action plan for the International Year and invites it to present this plan at the seventeenth session of the Forum, in 2018.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement

5. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision, in paragraph 135 of the Paris Agreement, to establish a platform on local communities and indigenous peoples. That decision recognized the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change.

6. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to assess the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Forum supports the Platform's operating principles, including that of recognizing and respecting the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems.

7. The Permanent Forum also welcomes the decision at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, to adopt an incremental and participatory approach to developing the platform on local communities and indigenous peoples with a view to ensuring its effective operationalization.

8. The Permanent Forum invites the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to share the findings of the next open multi-stakeholder dialogues on the operationalization of that platform at the seventeenth session of the Forum. The Forum urges Member States to operationalize the platform in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.